

Some such Normans, forty In number,
 probably
 adventurers of knightly blood seeking
 their for-
 tune in troubled fields, were returning
 from wor-
 shipping at the altar of the Archangel
 towards the
 end of the year 1015 when there
 entered into talk
 with them the fugitive Melus, dressed
 in flowing
 robes and with some sort of Greek
 turban upon his
 head, a costume which seemed to
 them foreign
 and unmanly.¹ The Lombard soon
 revealed his
 true character and his object, and
 besought their
 help in his cause, begging them to beat
 up recruits
 in their own country for the service of
 the Apulian
 insurgents. They carried the
 message to Nor-
 mandy and in a few months the first
 bands of
 Norman adventurers began to cross the
 Alps, and
 come down by Rome to Capua and
 Benevento.
 Their leaders, who had perhaps met
 Melus at
 Monte Gargano, were Gilbert Buatke,
 Rainulf,
 Asclettin, and Ralph of Toeni, petty
 knights of
 the duchy, among whom Gilbert had
 incurred the
 duke's wrath for an act of homicide,
 and was glad
 to seek a land where the strong hand of
 power was
 little to be feared.

The newcomers, whose advent was
 followed for
 fifty years by fresh swarms from the
 inexhaustible

race, brought with them nothing beside
the horses
which they bestrode like born riders,
the lance and

* Guill. Ap_M *op. cit.*, bk. i, line 27:

⁴¹ More virum grseco vestitum nomine Melum
Exulis ignotam vestem capitique ligato
Insolitos mythrfie mirantur ad<ro rotttai*¹¹